

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
OMB-01 ACDA-12 IO-14 HA-05 /109 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:WHALL"LKD
APPROVED BY EA/K: DBLAKEMORE
-----003484 210846Z /21

R 210042Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

UNCLAS STATE 184469

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, PROP, KS, US, MARR

SUBJECT: FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS - JULY 19

1. THIS WEEK'S SESSION UTILIZED A PANEL FORMAT TO EXAMINE THE US ROLE IN KOREAN MILITARY DEVELOPMENT AND ITS POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS FOR US/ROK RELATIONS BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THE KOREAGATE SCANDALS. PANEL MEMBERS WERE: GEN. RICHARD STILWELL, CINCUNC 1973-76; DR. DENNIS DOOLIN, DEP. ASST, SEC. OF DEFENSE FOR EA AND PAC AFFAIRS 1969-74; AND DR. NATHAN WHITE, FORMER RESEARCH FELLOW AT THE INSTITUTE FOR DEFENSE ANALYSES. SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS FRASER AND GOODLING ATTENDED.

2. EACH OF THE PANELISTS DELIVERED A PREPARED STATEMENT (COPIES OF WHICH ARE BEING POUCHED), FOLLOWED BY QUESTIONS FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE. FRASER'S INITIAL QUESTIONING SOUGHT TO ESTABLISH THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK SUPPORTING US/ROK DEFENSE RELATIONSHIPS, THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY, JUSMAAG, ANNUAL SCMS, ETC., AND EXPLORED THE HISTORICAL

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ROLE OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA AS A SPRINGBOARD/ BRIDGE BETWEEN JAPAN AND ASIA. HE THEN SOUGHT THE PANEL'S VIEWS ON THE PROBABLE IMPACT ON JAPAN OF THE VIOLENT REUNIFICATION OF KOREA UNDER COMMUNIST AEGIS. PANEL MEMBERS AGREED THAT THE FACT OF A COMMUNIST KOREA, ALTHOUGH NOT WELCOMED BY THE JAPANESE, WOULD NOT TROUBLE THEM NEARLY

AS MUCH AS THE US FAILURE TO LIVE UP TO TREATY COMMITMENTS, PERCEIVED AS THE ONLY WAY SUCH A REUNIFICATION COULD OCCUR.

3. GOODLING THEN FOCUSED ON THE US ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT OF BOTH ROK ARMED FORCES AND DEFENSE INDUSTRIES AND RELATIVE KN/KS MILITARY CAPABILITIES. PANEL CONSENSUS WAS THAT (A) COMBINED US/ROK FORCES COULD THWART ANY KN-ONLY ATTACK; (B) ANY REDUCTION OF US FORCES SHOULD BE BALANCED BY BUILD-UP OF ROK FORCES; (C) ROK ATTACK ON KN VERY UNLIKELY AND TANTAMOUNT TO "NATIONAL SUICIDE"; AND (D) RELATIVE COMPARABILITY OF OPPOSING FORCES ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO PREVENT OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES.

4. IN RESPONSE TO GOODLING'S STATEMENT THAT THE PRESENCE OF US TROOPS IN KS MIGHT BE USEFUL IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS CONTEXT, WHITE STATED THAT IN HIS OPINION THE ONLY ROLE OF US FORCES VIS A VIS HUMAN RIGHTS WOULD BE IF THE USG THREATENED TO WITHDRAW THEM DUE TO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. HE FURTHER OPINED THAT SUCH A THREAT WOULD FIND SCANT CREDIBILITY WITHIN THE ROKG.

5. ON CLOSING WHITE POSITED A TRADE OFF OF US FORCES FOR KN POLITICAL CONCESSIONS EITHER IN ACCEPTANCE OF TWO KOREAS AND/OR EVENTUAL PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION. THE OTHER PANEL MEMBERS AND GOODLING AGREED THAT THIS APPROACH WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE184469
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WHALL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780299-1227
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780733/aaaabboy.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 87e1146f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1925201
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS - JULY 19
TAGS: PINR, PROP, MARR, KS, US
To: SEOUL
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/87e1146f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014